REMARKS

In the final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 as anticipated by the Dreyer et al. reference, rejected claims 3 and 6 – 9 as obvious over the Dreyer et al. reference in view of the Tanaka reference, indicted that claims 10 – 18 and 20 are allowed and indicted that claim 21 is objected to for dependence on a rejected base claim but would be allowed if redrafted in independent form.

Telephone Interview

Applicants express their appreciation for the courtesies extend by the Examiner during a telephone interview on December 16, 2003, with applicant's representative, Melvin Robinson.

Allowed Claims

Applicants note with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in the present application. The Examiner has allowed claims 10 – 18 and claim 20. Applicant notes that claim 20 is an independent claim from which depends, either directly or indirectly, claims 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 21. Accordingly, these claims should also be allowed.

35 USC §102(b)

As noted above, the claims 4 and 5 depend from an allowed claim. Applicants submit that the rejection be withdrawn and claims 4 and 5 indicated as allowable.

The **Dreyer et al.** reference discloses printing of pieces of mass mail sorted by carrier route to obtain postage discounts for pre-sorted mass-mailings. The reference refers to the printed items as books, but gives the example of a single sheet of paper folded to form a brochure. The mass mail items are finished by auxiliary devices such as folding devices,

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trimming devices, binding devices, etc., which can foul the printed book from time to time. The operator ordinarily manually reorders the printing of fouled book and then re-sorts the reprinted book to the proper postal route group. Sensors in the Dreyer device detect a fouled book and cause the ruined book to be automatically reprinted so as to avoid the manual re-ordering and re-sorting steps.

Dreyer discloses that the books have fixed data and variable data. In Dreyer, the fixed data is the portion of the text and images that are the same from one mail item to another, while the variable data is the name and address information of the mail recipient and possibly a personalized message to the mail recipient. The variable data is stored in a database. The fixed data is provided as template files. The print run is performed by combining each database entry with the template until all of the database entries have been utilized.

Upon detection of the fouling of a printed item, the Dreyer apparatus makes a log entry identifying the fixed and variable data of the fouled item to be used to reprint the book.

The reference says in column 12, lines 48 – 54, that once there is no more variable data to be inserted into the document, the template files are stored on a storage medium and/or downloaded with the database to the control unit.

By contrast to the cited reference, the present invention seeks to reduce the storage volume for printed publications by achieving a high degree of compression in the archived data. The print data has fixed and variable data, the fixed data being form data. The form data is separated from the variable data and these are stored separately in the archiving system. The distinction between the form data and the print data is made while the data is in a print format, and the subsequent processing is also performed while the data is in the print data

format. The form data is stored only once for each job. The forms re-occur in the same way for a specific number of interrelated print data sets (see page 3, lines 3 – 6, of the specification). In other words, the same forms may be used for different documents but are filled with different variable data. Thus, there can be several documents in the print data stream. Further, a press run may have frequently re-occurring identical forms (see page 3, lines 20 - 22). Thus, more than one form data can be used for a press run.

The Dreyer reference does not disclose that there can be several different documents in the print data stream that is being separated into fixed and variable data and Dreyer certainly does not disclose that the fixed data can re-occur in different documents.

Claim 1 has been amended to distinguish over the cited reference.
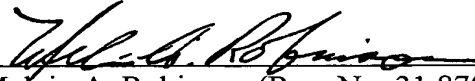
35 USC 103(a)

The **Tanaka** reference provides a form overlay printing apparatus in which the form data is stored in a data memory and variable data is stored in a buffer. The form data and variable data are converted into printing signals and combined. Only the variable data are sent to the printer.

Even if Tanaka is combined with Dreyer, there is no teaching of the invention as claimed. In particular, claim 3 now provides that the form data is used for a plurality of different documents.

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Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the election requirement, and

favorable consideration and allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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